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## A Political Rip Van Winkle.

It is announced in the papers that Thomas

Ewing, formerly a prominent Whig politician,

but who has not taken any interest in

politics for about ten years, has pronounced

his speech in favor of Lincoln. Now

make a speech in favor of Lincoln. Now

and then we hear of him being disembodyed

from rocks, where they must have been

confined for many years, yet when released

from their narrow cells they exhibit signs

of life. So there are politicians who have

lived their brief day, and played out their

brief game, who seem to be taken with a

softening of the political brain, and lose all

interest in political affairs. The fierce

clash of Presidential contests, when the

very existence of the country is at stake—

it is now in every Presidential contest—

passes by them all unheeded, albeit, a little

while before their eyes the Atlas shoulders

that supported the body politic.

But, after hibernating thus through suc-

cessive party contests, all at once they begin

to show signs of quickening, and anon it is

announced that they will address their fol-

low-citizens on the issues of the day. It is

supposed, of course, that they must have

sucked from their paws great ponds of polit-

ical wisdom during their long repose, and

public expectation is correspondingly ex-

cited; and men who have borne the burden

and heat and opprobrium of the day of small

things in the party, until it has come to the

Pinch where the land of official promise is

in view, hail these eleventh-hour resurrec-

tions, as confirming the righteousness of

their cause and the momentousness of their

retirement to the rescue of their country.

It would seem from this that active polit-

icians are all suspicious, and that true polit-

ical virtue consists in hibernating, and

only coming out when sunshine is sure. We

have noticed this phenomena often, and it is

one of the most curious and inexplicable

things in politics. Why is it that when the

political trains are once out, the politician

does not stay dead, but rises again to push

us from our stools with his unearthly pres-

ence? Why does the political sepulcher,

wherein we saw him quietly inured, and

after we have found consolation for our loss

of our rusty jaws to cast him up again?

Even in the days of miracles, raising the

dead was only considered practicable within

a certain time, before decomposition had

taken place; but unwholesome political

ideas are brought up after ten years in the

tomb. It is certainly one of the strangest

things in our philosophy.

What tramp has brought this Rip Van

Winkle from his ten years' sleep? Is Rep-

ublicanism any more worthy now than it

was four years ago. Any less radical? Or

is it because it is more promising? It is

a common tradition that the racoon comes

out of his hole on a particular day in mid-

winter, and if he then casts a shadow, he

prognosticates an early release from his win-

ter quarters. Hath this hibernating politi-

cian seen a streak of sunshine, and his pon-

derous shadow athwart the political prospect?

Has he tried waiting for the reactionary,

conservative blast—like the ether trump of

Huileiras—the blast which is to breathe life

into the dry bones of the vale of the Whig

Jehoshaphat, and elevate its fossils into ob-

jects of adoration? and has he at last con-

cluded to fall into the current?

Retracing the political history of the

State for a clue, we find that when he went

in, Wade arose upon the Senatorial throne.

That was the time when Jo. Geiger held

balance of power in the Legislature, and

like another Joshua, commanded this great

Whig sun to stand still, and it obeyed him.

Now the doctory General has turned to

hunting Cox and such small deer. Are we

to take up the clue where it was lost, and

to look for it in the fact that the place of

Wade next comes before the Legislature? These

political anaesthetics, that are torpid for ten

years after a full meal, have to strike at

large game.

## THE HISTORY OF HERODOTUS.

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Appendices, illustrating the History and

Geography of Herodotus, from the most recent

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of the latest Researches into the History and

Geography of the Ancient World. By George

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